continue the service by hiring its own transponders. Two transponders were hired on PAS-4 and PAS-1 in August, 1995 for transmitting International Channel in South-Asia, Middle-East, parts of Europe, North Africa, North America and Canada. The transmission hrs. have now been extended to about 18 hrs. i.e. from 6.30 A.M. to 24.00 hrs. It will take some time to guage the impact of this new channel.

(c) There are no financial implications presently as far as software is concerned because old and current software is being utilised. However, Doordarshan-India (external service) has been operational on transponders leased on PAS-4/PAS-1 since September 1995. The lease charges payble to PANAMSAT are US $ 3 million per annum for initial 36 months and there after US $ 4.875 million per annum upto 15 years.

(d) Suitable programmes to present the country and to counter the anti-India propaganda by presenting a factual picture of happening and developments in the country and abroad backed by wholesome entertainment and infotainment programmes are telecast on this channel in addition to the other programmes.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g). Do not arise.

Distribution of CR Coils/Sheets

3096. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether bookings of CR coils/sheets in bulk quantities against the year 1995 (1.1.95 to 31.12.95) were made arbitrarily and selectively basis in favour of two-three firms only much after the closure of general bookings by the Branch Sales Office, SAIL, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details and justification thereof;

(c) whether all the other firms/customers, except the above two-three firms, attached to the BSO, SAIL, New Delhi were denied the bookings of CR coils/sheets against the above period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the High Court, Delhi had also given a judgement on July 29, 1991 regarding fair distribution of steel materials to customers by SAIL;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps to initiate action against the guilty officers by BSO, SAIL, New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Post of Correspondent Reporter, Rajkot

3097. DR VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether one post of Correspondent/Reporter has been abolished from All India Radio, Rajkot and posted to Kutch where there is already one post of the same;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether representation have been received in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. One post of Correspondent at AIR, Rajkot has been abolished 10% economy cut in March, 1995 and the incumbent rendered surplus was posted to Kutch (Bhuj), where a vacancy in the same grade existed.

(c) to (e). Yes, representations were received from MPs for shifting of the post of News Reporter, AIR, Bhuj to AIR, Rajkot. Since AIR, Bhuj has a full fledged Regional News Unit (RNU), which covers as well as prepares news bulletins and news based programmes and Rajkot does not have a RNU, the suggestion was not found feasible.

[Translation]

Magnesite in Rajasthan

3098. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has sent proposals to the Union Government for conducting survey for extraction of Magnesite at Village Prasad, Tehsil Saradha district, Udaipur (Rajasthan);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether this metal is aboundently present in this area;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for exploration of this metal in the State;

(e) the benefit likely to be accrued to the Government from the said mine; and

(f) the number of persons belonging to the tribal area likely to get employment, therein?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) No, Sir.